

NOSTALGIA

New television mast will pipe three channels into homes of viewers

MIKE PETTY AND JAMES MILNER LOOK THROUGH THE CAMBRIDGE NEWS ARCHIVES AT SOME OF THE STORIES FROM THIS DAY IN THE PAST

French wind not enough -1986

FRENCH'S Mill was built on a high point in Chesterton in 1847 by William Beart.

It was a wooden-walled smock mill but didn't catch enough wind so it was jacked up and an eight-sided brick base added.

But it was still not satisfactory so, in 1868, William French converted it to run on steam power.

Later, the sails were removed and gas engines installed, to be replaced by diesel 14 years later.

At its peak, small bakers used it regularly but, when the adjoining land was taken as playing fields for St Peter's School, it looked as if the mill was doomed.

Now, it has begun a new life as an office suite and the surrounding buildings house ten other small companies playing their part in the technology boom.



A new mast erected in 1962 allowed residents on the Arbury Estate to receive three television channels and four radio programmes

Lion Yard 'obsolete' says Minister - 1964

THE Lion Yard area is badly laid out and contains 'obsolete development'; there should be a small increase in shopping space with the rest devoted to civic and university uses, Sir Keith Joseph, the Minister of Housing says.

A brand new shopping area should be created in the City Road area - the present twilight zone.

It will take traffic away from the centre, cater for modern

supermarket trends and fit in with plans for the continuation of the East Road housing scheme.

TV piped into the city - 1962

PIPED television begins in Cambridge on Saturday when 30 Arbury Estate subscribers tune in to receive three television and four radio programmes via a 170ft mast in King's Hedges Road.

The British Wireless Relay Company says the cost of laying a

complete underground network was prohibitive but, wherever possible, the cables were being put in the least conspicuous places.

People can hire sets for between 7s6d and 13s a week

Oxbridge suicide rates high - 1953

THE incidence of suicide at Oxford and Cambridge is higher than at other universities in the UK.

Some years ago, the proportion of the population which constituted

sound university material was thought to be over 40 per cent. Now, that percentage was no higher than 15.

A senior tutor of St Catharine's College said: "I believe a great deal of frustration, unhappiness and waste is caused by forcing students into university courses when they have neither the intelligence, training, personality nor mental fibre to meet the standard of such education.

"Many breakdowns arise because men are forced into work against their true inclinations, often for family reasons.

"Sexual disturbances are not important causes of failure though, from time to time, students seek refuge in drink or drugs."

Baker sold bread with no coupons - 1947

FINES totalling £35 were imposed on a Cambridge baker who admitted having sold 71 loaves of bread without coupons to Ukrainians from the European Volunteers Workers' Hostel at West Wrattling.

It was stated that the bread was being sold at the camp by the men for 6s. for a 2lb loaf.

The baker said that a procession of displaced persons told him a terrible tale about the shortage of food at their camp.

Some told him they only got three slices of bread a day and pleaded with him to let them have some.

He let them have some stale loaves as, with the particular flour used now, it was difficult to sell stale bread.

He made no profit out of it and had no idea they were being sold for such exorbitant prices at the camp

New era for telephone service - 1934

THE opening of the new exchange at Trumpington is the first step towards the great change-over to automatic telephones.

Engineers dashed to remove the wooden plugs which set the system working and waited for the first call.

Soon, a line crackled and a bulb lit up. But it was a false alarm. The second caller had forgotten the changeover and, not getting a verbal answer, hung up.

Twice more this happened but, after eleven minutes, a call came through from the Trumpington A.A. box and the new apparatus was officially launched.

Letters...

Delight of relief from gas smoke - 1954

SIR, The best part of our charming city of Cambridge is the Abbey Estate as, during the past few weeks, No.1 Retort House at the Gas Works has been out of commission.

No dust; no smoke; no fumes; no hauling lumps of coke out of your eyes. All is peaceful.

The old grinding noise and clattering of the elevator has stopped.

Washing can be hung out free from grit and blacks and you can see the spire of St Andrew's Church nestling among the trees.

Delightful - but how long will it last?

Hardworking kitchen porter - 1926

SIR, Probably the hardest-worked and the poorest paid college servant is the kitchen porter.

In full term, he puts in from 13 to

14 hours a day and, at the end of the week, if he draws 25s. (his food included), he may consider himself lucky - and perhaps the less said about the quality of some of the food the better.

They get few tips - an average of 4s. a term, and perhaps nothing, and in all probability have to stand off during the long vacation.

These men are honest and trusted servants who should be paid a living wage

A British worker